

Schaefer, Christina

From: Bob Galbraith [bgalbraith@sos.state.ia.us]
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2001 5:17 PM
To: Christina Schaefer
Cc: Neal Schuerer; Scott Raecker; Chet Culver; Dean Lerner
Subject: Admin. and Reg. Subcommittee Budget Request

Christina,

Thank you for the opportunity to have input into the subcommittee's effort to identify potential spending reductions in the current fiscal year. The Office of Secretary of State is, of course, in a different position than many other agencies, having our budget reduced two years in a row. This is especially true when one considers the \$4.2 million average annual revenue to the general fund generated from fees for services provided by our office.

As part of our office's budget presentation to the subcommittee last month, we provided several handouts. Handout 1 was a listing of the select statutory responsibilities of the Secretary of State's Office for the two major budgets (Admin/Elections/Voter Reg. and Business Services). Two other budget areas were also covered (Redistricting and Publications). Attached to this e-mail is the list of our statutory responsibilities.

You can see by the list that the bulk of the Secretary of State's Office's responsibilities relate to providing myriad services. That is the reason that approximately 80% of the two main budgets for our office are for salaries. It is difficult to see how a 5% reduction can be accomplished without the necessity for a reduction in salaries. This means layoffs and a corresponding reduction of services.

Yet, the demand for these services has continued to grow over the last several years, at the same time that the net budget for these services has been reduced in each of the last two fiscal years.

In order to describe the impact of a 5% reduction in our FY01 budget, please indicate which of the statutorily mandated responsibilities set forth on the attached list the subcommittee would like us to reduce or eliminate. Just one example of a negative consequence would be to adversely impact elections and voter registration in this state at a time when the public has had its confidence shaken by the 2000 general election. Furthermore, we believe that the business entities and citizens who pay the \$4.2 million in fees should also receive a reduction in fees if their services are to be reduced. We do not have a good answer to their concerns about reduction of services without an accompanying reduction in fees charged. What are we to tell these customers?

Thank you for your continued guidance.

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02/17/2001

Schaefer, Christina

From: Eric Bakker [ebakker@sos.state.ia.us]
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2001 3:15 PM
To: Christina Schaefer (E-mail)
Cc: Dean Lerner; Bob Galbraith
Subject: FW: email in response to Christina Schaefer's Feb. 14 and 15 emails on Admin. and Reg. Request

Christina: Pursuant to our February 15, 2001, telephone conference, our response to your Feb. 14 and 15 emails regarding the Admin. and Reg. Request is as follows:

1. The projected expenditure for Admin/Elections/Voter Reg. actually reflects an overage (-\$12,399), not the other way around (as reflected in the Feb. 15 email).
2. The \$13,303 adjustment was already taken into account in the \$105,002 Total Budget Unit number.
3. The projected expenditures numbers do not account for the Info. Tech. Specialist position having been filled (in Business Services), nor do these numbers account for the outside services monies already spent and to be spent for IT services.
4. Especially because of the \$37,500 two year cut to our Business Services Budget and no change to Admin/Elections/Voter Reg., we are very concerned about our ability to provide required services and meet our reduced budget.